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Executive Registry
76-3529/2

1 October 1976

NOTE FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: Testimony before Representative Wolff's Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse -- Intelligence Failure

ATINTL
ATINTL

1. [redacted] has just called in the results of his review at the Committee of the testimony of Bensinger (DEA), Acree, (Customs) and has interrogated the Committee staff on the testimony of previous Executive Branch witnesses (Justice, State, Domestic Counsel, IRS, National Institute for Drug Abuse).

2. The general impression of the testimony is that there is room for major improvement in the Government's efforts.

3. Bensinger made no reference to any CIA failure.

4. Wolff's statement that, "somehow the information pipeline connecting the CIA with the rest of the 'enforcement community' has been clogged," apparently is not supported in the hearing record, even though he attributes this conclusion to Acree, Bensinger and "other witnesses, Cabinet officers and agency heads."

5. Acree did say that "...we simply do not know how heroin in quantity arrives in the United States. The origin we generally know... but we don't know by what mode, method or manner." Further, that this was not due to any lack of cooperation between Customs, Immigration and DEA but because, "the enforcement community simply doesn't have that information to exchange." However, later on in his testimony (attached) he clarified that insofar as CIA is concerned, it is not the lack of cooperation but the fact that the type of interdiction information needed may be precluded by the new guidelines under which the Agency is operating.

TINTL

6. It is [redacted] feeling that there also is in the background of this issue the fact that DEA has not been effective in picking up from Customs the responsibility for acquiring the type of interdiction information which is lacking.

STATINTL

[redacted]
Deputy Legislative Counsel

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In response to a query from Congressman English, as to whether the Agency could be of assistance in providing information with regard to arrests, Acree said, "I would think the CIA could be valuable to us in providing us with a kind of information that we could use in interdiction. Let me make a point in that regard, we don't always need to know who is bringing a narcotic into the country. If we know how it is coming into the country, where it is coming into the country, the method by which it is being brought into the country, then we can gear our reaction effort then in that direction...As I mentioned earlier to you sir, if we know how it is coming in or what particular port it may be coming in or how it is concealed and the like then we can as I said react in a very positive way to that kind of information and I would suggest that the possibility of that being produced by CIA if it was within their capability to produce it, could be useful to us, yes."

In response to a question from Congressman English as to whether Acree had made such a request of the Agency, Acree said, "Yes," and went on, "Well the CIA, as I am sure the Gentleman knows, has been under rather severe review and any operational arrangement at this point has to be spelled out in specific guidelines and writing and so forth. My staff informs me that we are attempting to do that at this point."

Mr. English: "They have indicated a willingness to provide that kind of information, is that correct?"

Acree: Yes.

D'Angelus (Acree's counsel): Yes sir. Those within existing guidelines, those are under review.

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ACTION

OLC

We need a review of guidelines:

1. What are existing restrictions

2. What changes might we suggest.

Please get such information together.

GB
10-2-76

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